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W A R T I M E   E X T E N S I O N   W O R K

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS  
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Some items in this week's summary:

Wheat crop estimate 40 percent over State's 10-year average.  
4-H Club members sponsor new Liberty Ship.  
"Spoilage clinics" teach careful canning.  
Special grasshopper-control program for 32 counties.  
Extension income-tax service helps hundreds of farmers.  
Sewing-machine clinics meet wartime need.

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PUERTO RICO  
May 1, 1944

Food production.- For last 6-1/2 months Puerto Rico has been suffering severest drought on record. Production has decreased, and virtually no plantings have been made. However, food-production campaign continues, with special emphasis on Victory Gardens. Farmers intend to plant as soon as weather permits. Vegetable seeds have been distributed, and Victory Gardens were started where water is available, such as near brooks and rivers and in towns. In several cities use of water for gardens has been prohibited. Civilians have been urged not to use more water and electricity than necessary.

Extension school in nutrition and food production lasting 3 days was held for field personnel of southern and western zones. Fourteen conferences on nutrition and health were attended by 932 persons. Nine radio programs were broadcast by Extension Service, with cooperation of 11 specialists. Major emphasis was placed on food production.

SOUTH DAKOTA  
May 19, 1944

Food preservation.- Seven special food-preservation agents have been employed by Extension Service up to May 1 for garden and food preservation work in counties. Extension horticulturists, plant pathologist, and entomologist cooperated by training these agents in insect control and gardening methods. Plans were made for food-preservation training school for all home demonstration agents and food-preservation agents.

Farm labor.- During April, 23 farm labor assistants were employed to help county agents handle supply and demand for labor. Total of 41 Navaho Indians from Arizona have been brought into western part of State to help with lambing and herding. Some South Dakota Indians have also been recruited for this work. In sugar beet sections 300 Mexicans are now at work. Plans are being made to bring in war prisoners to alleviate farm labor shortage in some counties.

Increased production and Victory Gardens.- Extension agronomist has taken active part in campaign for increased grain production. With county agents assisting he has promoted State-wide new oat campaign, introducing new disease-resistant Richland x Victoria crosses in eastern counties and Brunner and other early varieties in central and western counties.

Several articles promoting flax and soybean production were published to help growers meet South Dakota war production goals. Intensive campaign for increased food production through Victory Gardens was promoted by use of newspapers and radio. Weekly 300-word column on "Garden Hints" is sent to all newspapers. Neighborhood leaders were given 5,000 copies of "Monthly Garden Suggestions" carrying illustrated head, for distribution. For State distribution 75,000 leaflets on "A Better Garden" have been printed. One live 12-minute radio broadcast and four 5-minute transcribed broadcasts were made, publicizing "Grow More in '44."

Clothing economy.- Clothing specialist continued series of sewing-machine cleaning and repair meetings, bringing total to 17 held since February 1. These clinics were attended by 192 homemakers who brought machines with them and cleaned and repaired them under supervision of specialist. Home demonstration agents in counties where clinics were held received training through these meetings, and now are prepared to conduct similar clinics when need arises. South Dakota homemakers find clinics meet wartime need, since more home sewing is being done than previously, and sewing-machine repair facilities in State are limited.

Home conditioning of woolens was stressed in demonstration prepared by specialist and presented to home demonstration agents. These demonstrations will be given in counties before spring storage of winter woolens as clothing conservation measure.

Home management.- Home-management specialist conducted 6 furniture repair clinics attended by approximately 200 homemakers. Clinics lasted 2 days. Homemakers attending brought in pieces of furniture needing repair and learned to repair them under supervision of specialist. Home and county agents attending received training and are prepared to conduct similar sessions as needed.

Grasshopper control.- Special grasshopper-control program is planned for 32 counties. From these counties 20 agreements so far have been received and approved. Agreement outlines responsibilities of county and defines State and Bureau of Entomology duties in control campaign. This year Bureau of Entomology will poison idle land and roadsides in areas of heavy egg deposits. Some baiting trucks will be furnished by Bureau, others hired on contract basis. County will furnish men to feed spreader by volunteer or paid labor. Counties are blocked off for treatment, and as trucks operate within block, farmers will bait their land at same time. Six bait-mixing stations have been opened and will be maintained with storage depots in each county. AAA is cooperating in furnishing surplus grain bins for county storage.



TEXAS  
May 1, 1944

Field crops.-- Spring cropping season in Texas has been very unfavorable. Excessive rainfall and winds delayed proper seedbed preparation and planting. Extension agronomist promoted planting of important war food and feed crops by discussing methods with county agricultural agents in group meetings, and through press releases and broadcasts. Offsetting late spring planting, winter grain crops benefited by widely distributed rains. April 1 U.S.D.A. report of crop estimates forecasts yield of 39,338,000 bushels of wheat--increase of 40 percent over 10-year, 1933-42, average, and 8 percent over 1943. Seeded wheat acreage last December was estimated at 4,628,000--increase of 30 percent over previous year. Production outlook for oats and barley is much better than last year, but no estimates on these crops have been released. On account of poor yield of peanuts last year due to drought, heat, scarcity of farm labor, and high-priced seed, it now appears 1944 peanut goal will not be reached. However, special efforts were made to get better rates of seeding, more seed treated, and more fertilizer used for increased acre yields to compensate for smaller peanut acreage. Chemical seed treatment was emphasized in connection with other crops to obtain better germination and control of seed-borne diseases. Use of more fertilizer for large acre yields also was advocated.

Victory Gardens.-- Record production of Texas gardens is expected if weather is favorable. Gardening activities have been greatly influenced by weather conditions in different parts of State. In southern and Coastal Bend areas Victory Gardens are in full production. Gardening season will end here about July and planting for winter and early spring production will be made during September and October. In central and north Texas weather has made gardening condition unfavorable, and planting is very spotty. In eastern part of State season is rather late but high production assured. Victory Gardens in west Texas necessarily must be planted in small plots where they can be irrigated from city water or farm windmills. Considerable interest in garden program exists in this area, which has average of only 16 inches annual rainfall, most of which is yet to come.

Swine.-- Production of hogs in Texas may be as much as 40 percent below 1943. Most drastic reduction is being made by large producers who had expanded production rapidly since Nation entered war. Major part of hog production this year apparently will come from small operators, especially those who have fewer than five sows. They have worked closely with county agricultural agents, provided adequate equipment and pasture, and many are feeding home-produced grain. This type of producer has found he can grow hogs profitably, even at current prices, and appears to be making no material reduction. Demand for good breeding stock this spring is surprisingly strong. There is large demand for information on rations, hog-lot equipment, and disease control. Extension Service promoting vigorous educational program to teach as many farmers as possible, both adults and 4-H Club boys, most economical method of hog production. Approximately 1,600 sow pigs will be placed with 4-H Club boys to serve later as sows in production demonstrations. Effort will be made to set up complete hog demonstration involving feeding, housing, sanitation, management, and marketing on each farm where one of sows is located.

Beef cattle.-- Extension beef cattle specialists assisted 4-H Club boys in series of 18 county shows and in marketing calves. Shows gave boys opportunity to sell calves singly or in groups. Prices received were satisfactory. Aid was given

many club boys in selecting calves for feeding and marketing in 1945. Regardless of future market conditions club boys are producing all beef they can. Some culling in breeding herds has been done, along with dipping for control of short-nose ox louse.

Food preservation.- In 6 weeks extension food preservation specialist, assisted by three war food assistants, has held "spoilage clinics" for county home demonstration agents in eight extension districts. Others are to be held. Object is to emphasize what happens if food is not canned carefully and properly. Field clinics are outgrowth of food-preservation conference at A. and M. College where food technicians and research people from universities discussed types of spoilage, how to detect it, what foods it affects, and how to prevent it. Home demonstration agents will give similar demonstrations. Four radio broadcasts on problems of spoilage and poor quality are being given by specialist at 2-week intervals.

Insect control.- White and negro county extension agents as well as war food emergency assistants were reached in group meetings for discussion of garden insect control. Use of rotenone was explained, and demonstrations were given on mixing cutworm bait and mixing garden dust as substitute for rotenone. Fair supply of rotenone dust was found in most counties, but had inadequate supply. Supply of garden dusters or sprayers is definitely inadequate. Many county agents who have seen 0.75 percent rotenone dust used on garden insects report it has been very satisfactory. At present strength of rotenone for garden use is limited to 0.5 percent, which is not fully satisfactory.

4-H Club ship.- Members of Texas boys' and girls' 4-H Clubs whom Maritime Commission invited several months ago to choose name for Liberty Ship, sponsored her launching April 28, and named her O. B. Martin. Mr. Martin was director of Texas Extension Service from 1928 until his death in 1935. Ship was built at Houston, and was christened by Grace Evelyn Constantin, 1943 Gold Star Girl of Wharton County. Billie Sol Estes, of Callahan County, winner of national blue ribbon award for achievement at 1943 National 4-H Club Congress, Chicago, acknowledged on behalf of 110,000 fellow members, honor of sponsoring the 10,600-ton vessel. In 1943, 90,000 Texas 4-H boys and girls produced enough food and fiber to load S.S. O. B. Martin 10 times. They could have loaded her 8 times with vegetables alone.

Clean milk for home use.- Dairy plants in many Texas counties are cooperating fully in extension educational work to promote production of clean milk for home food supply. Dairies are emphasizing importance of using and taking proper care of approved types of milk utensils. They lend home demonstration agents equipment for demonstrations. Included are milk pails, strainers and strainer pads, chlorine powder, alkaline cleaners, and brushes for washing milk utensils and for brushing cows. Clean milk as basis for improvement of all dairy products has been emphasized at district meetings of county extension agents.

Home production planning.- Specialist in home production planning is working with county home demonstration agents and some agricultural agents, on plans to "Grow more in '44." Meetings are held for discussion of quantities of food required to furnish adequate diets, types of food needed, and consequences of not knowing what to eat or practicing bad eating habits. Specialist also gave brief method demonstrations to aid county extension agents in helping farm and ranch people understand methods and management practices advocated.



Salvaging storm-damaged timber.- Texas Extension Service is working out cooperative plans for assisting farmers in six east Texas counties to salvage timber damaged in January ice storm. Before starting salvage work, Extension farm forester and representative of pulpwood branch of WPB accompanied county agricultural agents on visits to 17 farms in 6 counties and inspected 952 acres of damaged timber. They estimated 4,459 cords of pulpwood could be salvaged. County agents organized demonstrations to teach efficient salvage methods. One in Nacogdoches County brought out 13 farmers who, working together, salvaged 6 pens of pulpwood. Club boys helped. Lamar Ponder, 15-year-old San Augusting County 4-H Club member, cut 12 units of pulpwood and sold it for \$48. He worked Saturdays and was aided by neighboring boys on labor-exchange arrangement. He believes another 24 units can be salvaged, for total earnings of \$144.

Farm income tax.- About 40 county agricultural agents in cooperation with local farm groups sponsored income-tax service offices for farmers for month prior to March 15. On one day more than 400 returns were made out in Howard County office and more than 125 in Coke County. In Smith County about 350 returns were completed by income-tax service office, and at Nacogdoches about 150. Before starting this service, extension economist in farm management made intensive study of 1944 income-tax law and prepared digest of all major changes affecting farm families.

Cooperative family buying.- In month ended April 15, 200 farm families in Stonewall County pooled orders and bought 3 truckloads of surplus vegetables and citrus fruit from lower Rio Grande Valley. The 2,800 pounds of cabbage, 10,000 pounds of beets, 4,250 pounds of carrots, and 1,200 pounds of citrus brought into county cost each family average of \$3.57. Vegetables and citrus were used fresh, except beets, which were canned. Orders were handled through marketing committee of Stonewall County home demonstration council with cooperation of county home demonstration agent and extension specialist in home industries. Hamilton County farm families bought cooperatively 700 pounds of cabbage through county marketing committee.

Wartime activities of clubwomen.- Texas home demonstration clubwomen are conserving materials necessary to victory, and contributing to welfare and morale of fighting men. In Smith County 14 clubs turned in total of 310 pounds of waste fat which sold for about \$15. Hardin County home demonstration clubwomen are furnishing 1,000 dozen cookies monthly to U.S.O. at Beaumont. Clubs work on schedule, each making cookies once monthly. Mrs. D. G. Smith of the Silsbee Club said that 20 women each made 5 dozen cookies to fill their quota.

Feather comfort making.- Deficiency of woolen blankets for sale has contributed to revival of making of feather comforts for home use in many parts of Texas. Another reason is encouragement given to farm people to make best use of materials on hand and postpone buying until after war. Women in several counties are making comforts for others at reasonable prices. One Williamson County woman began making them for \$2.50, but now gets \$4 each. She learned method at meeting of county home demonstration agents. Three Titus County women made feather comforts as wedding gifts for daughters. Haskell County home demonstration agent held training school for making comforts. As result women are making comforts similar to those that sell commercially for \$16.95.

Negro activities.- Training in preparation of garden seedbeds, applying fertilizer, treating seed before planting, proper methods of cultivation, and insect control was given 108 local leaders of negro communities at 85 method demonstrations conducted by 21 negro county agricultural agents. County-wide Victory Garden meeting for both whites and negroes was held in Smith County in conjunction with exhibit of vegetables now growing in east Texas gardens. Farm Security representative reviewed varieties of seed and time of planting. Extension leaflets and circulars were given to group. Culling of small poultry flocks, and housing and disease control for baby chicks are among recent activities of negro farmers. Negro county agents gave 63 method demonstrations on how to cull for good layers, with 489 farmers attending. Value of records was shown at demonstration on George Giles farm in De Witt County. His flock of 7-month-old layers averaged 83 percent production during March for gross income of \$101. Feed cost was \$28.

More than 200 pieces of cured meat and more than 200 of sausage, crackling, eggs, and lard were exhibited at eighth annual county meat and meat products show at Tyler. Show was sponsored by Extension Service and Tyler Chamber of Commerce. Two-day county victory food show at Austin brought exhibits of meats, lard, canned vegetables and fruits, and home-made soap from negro farm families in all parts of county. Educational exhibit comparing quantity of processed and dried fruits and vegetables a person can buy in 1944 with amount he needs in home-processed foods was set up for study. To stimulate interest in production, garden seeds, insecticides, bulletins, fertilizer, and garden tools were arranged with appropriate placards telling their value. Meat cutting and curing demonstrations were given during progress of show.